

MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Purpose of Scholarship

National studies and projections indicate the demand for librarians far exceeds supply. This is considered one of the most critical facts for library service at this time. Financial support for future librarians increases the professional library workforce by encouraging individuals who might otherwise not have the resources for higher education to become librarians. The Missouri State Library Undergraduate Scholarships are intended to help undergraduates complete degrees prior to graduate study in librarianship.

Further Information

The Missouri State Library Undergraduate Scholarships cover the cost of tuition and required fees in a college or university in the State of Missouri. The maximum reimbursement rate for tuition/fees is limited to the highest prevailing per credit hour tuition/fees rate charged by a Missouri State College or University. As this rate is subject to fluctuation, a current tuition/fee schedule by school is developed each year.

Scholarship funds shall be paid directly to the financial aid office of the college or university in which the recipient is enrolled, where they shall be applied as anticipated financial aid on the recipient's account. Funds will only be available if the student is enrolled after the final drop date from class. The school shall credit the recipient's account with the amount awarded for the semester involved.

Scholarship applicants are encouraged to enroll full-time and complete their studies in a timely manner. However, the Missouri State Library Undergraduate Scholarships are also available to applicants who may be part-time students or completing part of their class work using distance-learning opportunities.

Eligibility Guidelines for the Undergraduate Scholarships:

A candidate for a Missouri State Library Undergraduate Scholarship must:

- Be a Missourian based on at least one of the following criteria:
 - Current resident of Missouri
 - Currently employed in Missouri
 - Born in Missouri
 - Current Missouri taxpayer

- Graduate of a Missouri high school
- Be admitted to an undergraduate program in an accredited college or university in the State of Missouri, in an academic area appropriate to professional librarianship.
- Be a junior or senior undergraduate in good academic standing (grade point average 2.75).
- Make a commitment to work in a publicly funded Missouri library after graduation as a full-time professional employee. The work commitment is reflected mathematically as one month of work commitment for each credit hour of academic course work supported by the scholarship. For example, if a student receives scholarship support for a 12 credit hour semester, a 12-month work commitment would be required. A scholarship recipient who fails to fulfill this commitment will be expected to repay a prorated amount based on total scholarship money received and the months of work obligation not met.

Application Requirements

- Completed application form and essay sent to the Missouri State Library. Completed information may be faxed to 573-751-3612 but must be followed by original documents mailed and postmarked no later than May 13, 2004 for the Summer or Fall Semester 2004.
- Official transcripts sent from appropriate academic institutions to the Missouri State Library.
- Letters of recommendation sent from appropriate references to the Missouri State Library.

Selection Process

- The scholarships will be advertised by notifying all appropriate libraries and academic institutions in Missouri.
- The Scholarship Committee will screen and evaluate the applications and forward their recommendations to the State Librarian and the Secretary of State.
- The Scholarship Committee may elect to conduct phone or personal interviews with finalists.
- The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to not consider incomplete applications.

- Applicants are responsible for ascertaining the Missouri State Library has received references and transcripts.

Post Award

- The State Librarian will notify applicants of scholarship awards.
- The State Library may monitor the academic progress of any scholarship recipient during the semester for which the scholarship is awarded.
- The scholarship recipients are responsible for sending the State Library a copy of their grades at the end of the semester for which the scholarships are awarded.
- **Once the scholarship has been awarded, support may continue in a subsequent semester. Recipients who wish to request this support are responsible for notifying the state library of their academic achievement (GPA as stated in the guidelines document) and the number of credit hours to be carried in the semester for which continuing support is requested. Recipients should also be aware scholarships are dependent upon appropriations and the discretion of the Missouri Secretary of State.**